



**PRESS RELEASE**  
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**For Immediate Release**

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**PUERTO RICAN POLICE OFFICER ARRESTED FOR ROBBERY AND EXTORTION  
RESULTING IN THE DEATH OF A PINELLAS COUNTY MAN**

Tampa, FL - U.S. Attorney Paul I. Perez announced today the indictment and arrest of JOSE RODRIGEZ SOSA, a police officer from Puerto Rico, and NESTER PAGAN, a Puerto Rican businessman, on federal conspiracy, robbery and extortion charges. If convicted the defendants face up to 20 years' imprisonment. The pair is currently in custody in Puerto Rico after having their detention hearing yesterday. They will soon be transported back to Tampa where they will be prosecuted.

On August 9, 2003, Carlos Martin Gonzales was shot and killed at his residence at 12050 Park Boulevard, Apartment 223, Seminole, Florida. Gonzales was a business associate of Pagan. The indictment alleges PAGAN conspired with SOSA to extort money from the victim. It is further alleged that during the attempted robbery and extortion the victim was shot and killed. Additional charges are anticipated in the investigation which is on going at this time.

This case is being investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office and the Office of Pinellas County State Attorney Bernie McCabe. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill.

An indictment is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation of the federal criminal laws, and every defendant is presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty.

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